

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



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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
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Marilyn Fullam, President
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TUESDAY, May 16, NEXT GENERAL 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 or geographical area. Several other tables will feature items for sale, (items 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. REMEMBER: Bring items with your name on them if you are sharing them. Put a price on each item if you are selling anything. Part 2: The luncheon (reservations close Friday, May 12) will follow promptly at 11:45 a.m. Attend the book browse (Part 1) or plan to attend both. Both have been successes in the past.

*****see you the 16th*****

BETTY KOT WOWS 'EM

Our April speaker was Betty Kot who spoke on the IGI--What It is and What It Isn't. Betty explained the advantages and disadvantages of anyone's using the IGI in doing genealogical research. She pointed out that these facts:

--the 1988 edition has 110,000,000 names; sounds like a great many people but then think of China with more than a current 1 billion+ population
--there is no living person in the IGI; the LDS Library prefers names of people 100 years dead

MARK

YOUR

CALENDAR

--it is a finding aid, not the last word in documentation

--it costs 15 cents per entry to produce

--check out all variations of names, i.e. Cavanaugh, Kavanaugh, Cravanaugh, Cavanau; or Trotter vs Potter

ACID-FREE PAPER OR NOT

A local duplicating service told me when I inquired about the availability of acid-free paper that their paper was made from cotton and was, therefore, acid-free. Well...that didn't sound right to me, but who am I to counter that statement. So I wrote to Howard Paper Mills in Ohio from whom I had bought some "acid-free" paper via a company in Texas. A paraphrased answer read like this:

"Acid free" has nothing to do with cotton. All papers can be made acid or alkaline. We make both with cotton as well as wood pulp. Chances are, if paper is acid free, i.e. alkaline, it will say so on the label. There are chemical indicators which can be obtained which will also tell you the pH range of a sheet. As a matter of interest, our paper is in the 8.0 pH range. Over a period of many decades our acid atmosphere will bring the pH down a few tenths of a point, but will not get down to 7.0 because of the alkaline reserve built into the paper.

So if you are thinking about publishing your genealogical research on paper which will not fall apart after 25-30 years, check out the labels on your reams of paper about to be used. In small amounts, the cost is noticeably higher than current stock used in duplicating shops.

JIM DOTSON'S BOOK REVIEWED

Jim Dotson, long time member of our society, has published a short book called Dotson Land Grants (1804-1865) in Present Day Counties of Ritchie, Doddridge, Tyler, West Virginia.

The contents of this book are fully described in the title. What is of added interest, however, is that this is a fine example of "desktop publishing" by an amateur genealogist. Jim describes his method in an introductory note:

"Desktop publishing" is a term recently applied to a technique for the preparation of "camera-ready" material on a computer using the proper word-processing and graphics software. This book is an example in which the author prepared the text, some graphics, and the final page layout on a Macintosh computer and a laser printer. Final printing of the "camera-ready" sheets and binding were done by a commercial printer.

(From Livermore-Amador Gen. Society Newsltr Vol VIII, No. 3)

TILLIE OR MILLIE?

The old mountaineer, about to die,
called his sons together and said: "Yew kin
share 'n share alike in my propity--but
promise tew burry me atween me tew
b'loved wife-mates, Millie 'n Tillie. 'N so's
yew won't fergit, think o' this:

Tillie was fair and as wild as the wind,
She gave your ol' pa great delight.
And though Millie was plain,
Her heart was pure gold,
She worked like a mule day 'n night.

Since the Lord has seen fit,
To give two such wives,
To a sinful and worthless hillbilly,
Plant me smack in between them,
With this one regard--
Could you tilt me a little toward Tillie?

MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

****James Dent Walker** is main speaker at the 4th annual Gen. Fair of the Calif. Gen. Society. Mr. Walker is an archivist and associate director for the museum and archives of the District of Columbia public

schools and is well known for his knowledge of military records. The Fair will be held June 16th and 17th at the St. Mary's Conference Center; plenty of parking underground at the Center. It seems that every year this Fair gets better and better. Special classes will be available for \$3 each. Admission to the exhibit area is included in the door fee. For more info call 415/777-9936.

****IRISH INTEREST GROUP:** Meets May 30, 1989 at 10 a.m., Carol Glover's house, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon. This will be the last meeting of the year.

A NEW NEWSLETTER TO BEGIN

"Graves Give and Take," a newsletter about **Graves** family lines will start publication this year. It will be published four times yearly with the first issue out in August, 1989. Interested persons are asked to share Graves family pedigrees, histories, inquiries, reunion dates, book reviews, wills, obits, military records, etc. Subscription rate is \$10 annually; however, for the remainder of 1989 only \$5 should be remitted. Contact Pat Moore Publications, 111 Ardmore Drive., Billings MT 59102.

A HANDY CATALOG TO HAVE

For anyone doing research in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., there is a most helpful free catalog printed by Family Line Publications, Rear 63 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157. This catalog contains the names of materials in stock, newly published items, and items to be published soon. Examples of materials available:

Ship Passenger Lists: The South (1638-1825)

Index to Maryland Colonial Wills, 1634-1777

Baltimore County Families 1659-1759

Inhabitants of Baltimore County 1692-1763

TRIVIA TO READ AND FORGET

On April 24, 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., appropriating \$5,000 "for the purchase of such books as may be necessary."

The National Archives in San Bruno is conducting a workshop called "How to do your Pennsylvania research from California." Extensive display of resource books, periodicals, catalogs, printed tips/resources will be on hand to look over. Emphasis will be on where records are located and how to access them--by mail. (San Mateo Co. Gen. newsltr May, 1989)

The Contra Costa Co. Historical Society will be conducting an ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP on May 20 at Oak Park School, 1700 Oak Park Blvd., in Pleasant Hill. Cost is \$25.

Sat., May 20 - All day genealogical workshops, 8 to 4 pm, at the Los Altos Mormon Stake Center, 1300 Grant Road, Los Altos. Registration at the door: \$8. 35 different seminars scheduled; class times vary from one hour to two hours.

MEMBER IRMA DOTSON GETS AWARD

Our own Irma Dotson was selected recently by the Alamo-Danville Seroptimists as their 1989 Woman of Distinction. The group gave Irma a framed certificate, a \$100 check and several stems of orchids. Irma has lived in Danville since 1968 and has done extensive community service work. From 1872 to 1985 Dotson was the librarian at Monte Vista High School while also writing books on California History and Contra Costa County transportation. At the present time she is working on a book about the Southern Pacific Railroad.

A TOLERATOR

- BY LORETTA ELLIOTT BURNS

A tolerator is one who does not compile a genealogy or have an interest in the subject but one:

Who--will walk a cemetery with a walkie-talkie helping you to find a tombstone needed for a family record.

Who--will give you a book or microfilm for a birthday or a Christmas present

Who will build in his spare time bookcases to hold your growing collection of genealogy books.

Who--will go to a courthouse with you and carry the heavy books so you can search the records.

Who--will spend vacations going to libraries, archives, churches and cemeteries searching for elusive ancestors while foregoing playing golf or going fishing.

Who--will listen to endless stories about your family records that you have found.

Who--will dress in a Confederate general's costume and spend the evening at a ball.

Who--will obtain copies of your material and mail them for you to a genealogical pen-pal so you can share your material.

Who--does not complain about the money you spend on genealogy.

All genealogists need a tolerator since the "virus is never cured," and it is so nice to have someone with whom to share your triumphs. (Shared by member Wyn Kynett)

WATCH OUT FOR THOSE BIRTH DATES IN THE 1700'S

Pope Gregory XIII ordained that 10 days be dropped in 1582. In addition, he also specified that the years ending in hundreds

would be leap years, only if they were divisible by 400. Hence, the first such leap year to come after the decree was 1600, and the next would not be until 2,000. Thus ended the problem created by the Julian calendar that had an inaccuracy of six hours yearly which had become accumulated.

This drop of 10 days may mean nothing to the ordinary person, but it may make an impact on anyone doing family history research in the 1700's. When Pope Gregory changed the calendar, the political and religious tenor of the times made its acceptance in Protestant countries impossible. For instance, England did not adopt the new calendar system until 1751. By this time the "old style" method of dating was 11 days ahead of the "new style" reformed method.

To correct this discrepancy and bring the old style time in line with the new, the English Parliament provided that the 2nd of September of the following year, 1752, would be followed by the 14th, thereby dropping exactly 11 days from the calendar.

The genealogist needs to be aware of this situation. Not everyone at the time rectified his birthdates, and often home sources such as Bibles are not in agreement with public records. A person born in August, 1752, for example, whose exact age at death is known will have an old style and new style birthdate. To obtain the old style date, subtract the exact age from the date of death, then subtract 11 more days from that date. For the person seeking more detailed information than the above article provides, he may consult Ancestry Newsletter, Vol. II, No. 3, May/June 1984.

The beautifully home crafted 27" by 54" accent rug on display at the last meeting will still be available at this coming meeting. Raffle tickets are \$1 each. However, this is the last opportunity to buy a chance because the goal has almost been reached. Therefore, a lucky ticket will be drawn at the May meeting.

GRIMES REPORTS MAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS STILL TAKEN

Luncheon Chairman Arlene Grimes reports that 26 people have already paid for the annual May luncheon. She will continue to accept reservations up to Friday, May 12. Mail your check for \$8.50 directly to Arlene, 2365 Harbor View Drive, Martinez 94553. Make checks payable to: SRVGS. Reminder to those coming--bring any cut flowers you may have in the garden to decorate tables.

QUERY . . .

Will the person interested in Hickman County, Tenn. please contact Dorothy Stanton, 820-3757. She has many printed records and histories for this area.

HOSPITALITY OR NO HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE--THAT IS THE QUESTION

Since few members have expressed an interest in volunteering for the Hospitality Committee, which provides hot water for tea, makes coffee and bakes sweets, the Committee may disappear. That means no "goodies" or refreshments during the break. So the first time you see an empty kitchen, you'll know the reason. If, however, anyone would like to volunteer to chair this committee (primary responsibility is to bring pots and take them home each time), then speak to the President--SOON.

Your annual dues of \$12.50 for a single membership, \$18 for a family, are now due.

The By-Laws say that June 1 is the deadline for paying your money. If by July 1, you have not paid, your name will be dropped from the membership roll and, therefore, from the directory which Carol Glover, Membership Chairperson, will be preparing.

A form for membership renewal is enclosed in this newsletter. Carol Glover is trying out the idea of providing an envelope for you to use to return checks for renewals: Carol Glover, SRVGS Membership Chairman, 333 Goshen Court, San Ramon, CA 94583. You may also give your checks to her at the May meeting. But--do remember--do pay--mail your check today.

VOTING FOR 1989-90 OFFICERS

Voting for 1989-90 officers will take place at this month's meeting. Nominations have closed and the candidates below are slated to be voted on. New officers will take office immediately and a "new administration" will assume the leadership of our organization. Bea O'Rand, however, will be out of town at the time voting takes place.

President -- Bea O'Rand
1st VP -- Frances Lloyd
2nd VP (Program) -- Martha Banner
3rd VP (Membership) -- Carol Glover
Recording Sec -- Alice Wade
Corres. Sec -- Jo Bolenbaker
Treasurer -- Jess Sutfin



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? IF NOT, USE THE FORM BELOW
 SRYGS dues are now due and payable for the June 1, 1989-May 31, 1990 membership year. Please complete this form for our 1989-90 membership directory.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ ZIP: _____

Please list two surnames being researched for individual membership or four names for family membership so that they may be listed in the directory's surname index.

(1) _____ Locale and yrs _____

(2) _____ Locale and yrs _____

(3) _____ Locale and yrs _____

(4) _____ Locale and yrs _____

Individual membership \$12.50 _____ Family Membership \$18.00 _____

Please send this form and your check, payable to SRYGS, to: Carol Glover,
 333 Goshen Court, San Ramon 94583.

SAN RAMON VALLEY
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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