

CIVIL WAR BUFF?

Watch Civil War Battle re-enactments (for info 676-0534):

August 12 & 13 - Sacramento Delta at Silver Bend. Turn off Highway 5 at Freeport. Follow signs.

October 7 & 8 - Ed Levin Park, Milpitas. 680 south to Milpitas, take the Calaveras Blvd. exit and follow signs into foothills.

November 18 & 19, 1989 - Knights Ferry, Highway 108, east of Oakdale

[Contributed by MARILYN FULLAM]

CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS

Need to locate a grave? A query to the Director of National Cemetery Systems, Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20420 will supply you with information on which national cemetery a veteran of the Civil War is buried. [From SF Bay Area Jewish GS NL, Nov. 1988]

CW Soldiers' Photos The Department of the Army is attempting to secure a photo of every Civil War soldier. You're asked to loan any photos of CW vets you may have, and in return you'll be given a free 8x10 photo of each. Include as much information about the soldier as is known, including name, rank unit, birth and death dates and place of burial. Write to Michael J. Winey, Curator, Dept. of the Army, US Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks PA 17013-5008, and you'll be sent a franked mailing label for submitting the photos. [from Diablo Descendants 6/89]

**SAN RAMON VALLEY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOX 288
DIABLO, CA 94028**

NEWS FROM THE SRVGS BOARD

1989-1990 BUDGET

The SRVGS Board has approved the budget submitted by Treasurer JESS SUTFIN for the year 1 June 89 thru 31 May 1990. (Figures are based on a membership of 100)

CASH ON HAND 1 JUNE 1989

BANK	\$754.66
KITTY	4.05 \$ 758.71

RECEIPTS:

DUES	1277.50	
DONATIONS	200.00	
TAPE DONATIONS & SALES	25.00	
SALES & RENTALS	75.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1577.50	
TOTAL AVAILABLE		2336.21

EXPENSES:

NEWSLETTERS & STAMPS	\$800.00	
SPEAKERS	150.00	
RENT	400.00	
COST OF ITEMS SOLD	10.00	
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY	90.00	
LUNCHEON	30.00	
SUPPLIES (BROCHURES)	50.00	
POSTAL BOX RENTAL	7.00	
DUES CA STATE GEN ALLIANCE	20.00	
HOSPITALITY	25.00	
CONTRIBUTIONS	25.00	
TAPE EXPENSES	25.00	
OTHER	25.00	
	1657.00	1657.00

PROJECTED CASH BALANCE

\$ 679.21

JOB OPENING

President Bea O'Rand accepted with regret the resignation of Recording Secretary ALICE WADE who finds herself unable continue with the job due to increased family obligations. FRANCES LLOYD and BETTE KOT will be attempting to fill the position before our July meeting.

NEW SRVGS MEMBERS

We're happy to welcome two new members: JANE & BOB SINGLETON, 624 Sky Hy Cir., Lafayette 94549; (283-1547) Jane is researching surnames DANFORTH & SAVAGE (both in NH); Bob is working on JOHNSON (OH) & SINGLETON (VA).

NEW CLASSES

At the next meeting BETTE KOT will circulate a sign-up sheet for an Intermediate Class in Genealogy to be given in the fall. If there is enough interest, a Beginning Class will be offered. Classes will meet on Tuesdays at the home of FRANCES LLOYD, dates & times to be announced.

MAY LUNCHEON, below

[Photo by DIANA HANCOCK, Historian]



[REVIEWS cont.]

This tape is a must for those who have been, are planning to go, or don't plan to go to Sutro. After listening to this tape, you will want to go to Sutro immediately.

[Tape review by
MARILYN FULLAM]

The above talk (and several others from our library) taped at the SF Conference, is listed in a catalog from TRIAD, P.O. Box 120, Toulon, IL 61483. Other catalogs are available, such as 1988 NGS Conf at Biloxi, the 1987 NGS Conf at Raleigh, and the 1989 Germans from Russia Conference.

★ MORE TAPES: NGS ST. PAUL

TRIAD recently issued a catalog of tapes from the NGS Conference at St. Paul, MN in May 1989. Some of the titles that caught my eye were:

[SPM-] "Is This the Same Man--Or a Different One with the Same Name?", Helen Leary;

[SPM-53] "Turn a Pile of Notes into a Quality Finished Product", Alicia Williams;

[SPM-35] "Determining Maiden Surnames in Colonial New England", David L. Greene;

[SPM-51] "Research in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada" Terence L. Punch;

[SPM-76] "When the Original Sources are Wrong" Henry Z. Jones, Jr.;

[SPM-90] "The Battle of the Burned Courthouse" by Elizabeth S. Mills;

[SPM-59] "Editing a Family-name Newsletter: Shall We Tell Them Grandpa Was a Horse Thief?" by Christine Rose.

[Tapes are available from TRIAD for \$6 each plus postage & handling charge of \$1 per order of \$10 or less; \$1.50 per \$10.01 to \$25.]

★ SUMMER READING FOR GENEALOGISTS ★

Editor's Note: It's traditional for publications to print a "Summer Reading List". Since even genealogists cannot live by the Handybook and Source alone, here are some books for when it gets too dark to read those cemetery inscriptions!

Non-fiction

Generations - An American Family by John Edgerton. For the Bicentennial, the author looked for a family whose history would mirror that of our country. He found a near-100-year-old KY couple whose clear memories reached back to family members who'd talked to RW participants. Wonderful family perspective on history.

Somerset Homecoming - Recovering a Lost Heritage by Dorothy Spruill. The author's search for her roots led her to Somerset in VA where her ancestors were slaves. Genealogical detective work helped her to locate descendants of the other slaves for a warm "family" reunion.

Bowen House by Elizabeth Bowen. An Irish Ascendancy family's story is followed through the history of the house they occupied in Ireland.

Biography

Learn how some of our finest writers wrote about their own lives:

Eudora Welty in One Writer's Beginnings uses sights, sounds & smells to evoke memories of her childhood;

Ivan Doig, This House of Sky, makes "ordinary" people vividly extraordinary in telling about his boyhood in Montana as a descendant of Scottish settlers in a harsh setting;

Russell Baker, Growing Up "Superbly entertaining, it is also a fine and true book about American life."

[Time]

Fiction

Sarum by Edward Rutherford. Three family lines intermingle through the centuries in the Salisbury Plain area of England.

Ancestry has published a "whodunit" featuring a genealogist sleuth who uses pedigree charts to solve the mystery: Killing Cousins by Gene Stratton. Sounds like fun!

★ Reviews ★

Book Reviews by Delores Huckabone will return in September. In her absence, we have information on a book published by one of our own SRVGS members, Charles Graves, and a review of a tape from our SRVGS JOHN KOPCIE Memorial Tape Collection. BOB HEACOX, tape librarian, can be reached at 1(209)599-4256 (Ripon). Special thanks to WIN KYNETT for providing us with master copies of our tapes.

★ PUBLISHED AUTHOR!

SRVGS member CHARLES GRAVES announces an advanced printing of his The Graves - Miller Genealogy in a 4-vol., 1200 page edition. He is presently working on a re-formatting of this work to be published this fall in a 2-vol. (500 pgs. each) edition. It will be printed by GRT Book Printing of Oakland and will sell for \$150 a set.

Charles says the book starts with himself and his descendants on down to his great-grandchildren. Then he follows his father's (GRAVES) line back to MA 1629 and his mother's (MILLER) line back to PA 1700. Another line (EWELL) goes back to Williamsburg VA 1623 and thence back to England where it ties to several royal lines.

Charles estimates that he has found 6000 direct line ancestors. He used the Roots II genealogy software to enter over 12000 names into his computer!

How long did this take, you ask? Charles started researching his family history in 1982 when he was laid up with phlebitis.. He worked at it 8 hours a day for 5 years. Then he stopped researching so he could get it all written. It took him a little over a year to write the volumes he has just published.

Charles will report on his work in more detail at the September 27th meeting of the Publishing Interest Group.

Our CONGRATULATIONS to Charles, who joins SRVGS members JIM DOTSON, PEGGY FRAZIER, and DIANA HANCOCK (have I left anyone out?) who have the actual bound copies of their work completed. An inspiration to us all!

★ TAPE REVIEW

"Genealogical Resources in the CA State Library" by G. Kurtuz [Tape C-3]

This tape should have been called "Genealogical Resources in the CA State Library, Sacramento and Sutro Library, San Francisco."

Mr. Kurtuz gave this talk at the 4th annual Nat'l Gen Conference which took place in San Francisco in 1986. For 55 minutes Mr. Kurtuz throws one resource after another at the listener.

Did you know that the CA State Library, Sacramento is the only Federal Depository Library in CA? That they have the Massachusetts Register 1790-1845 and the London Times back to the Napoleonic times.

If you are doing CA research and haven't been to the State Library in Sacramento, you will be sure to go there after listening to this tape.

Did you know that Sutro Library has over 10,000 phone books? The Cox Collection of genealogies and U.S. local histories? That Sutro collects from everywhere in the world--except CA?

[cont. on next page]

* MARK YOUR CALENDAR *

- July 11, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore GS meeting (see details Aug.8). Program: "Sharing Experiences and Finds in Locating Ancestry".
- July 12, Wednesday 10 a.m. East Bay Gen. Soc. Meeting at LDS Library Meeting Room, Oakland.
- July 13, Thursday 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. Gen. Soc. Meeting at City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. Bette Kot will report on the 9th Annual NGS Conference in St. Paul, MN
- * July 18, Tuesday 10 a.m. SRVGS GENERAL MEETING - Learn from an expert local historian: Irma Dotson.
- * July 18, Tuesday 1 p.m. ROOTS III Special Interest Group Meeting at Shirley Terry's (alternate announced at mtg. if needed)
- July 22, Saturday 9a.m.-12 Workshop at Nat'l Archives on German Research. \$5 (See June Newsletter) Reservations:876-9009
- July 26, Wednesday, 9-12 Nat'l Archives workshop.(\$5) 876-9009
- July 27, Thursday 9-1, Nat'l Archives workshop. (\$5) 876-9009
- * August 5 through 7 Weekend NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION WEEKEND. Celebrate by holding one of your own or plan one for next year. Send for the free booklet from Better Homes & Gardens: Family Reunion Guidebook, Dept. RE, P.O. Box 10237, Des Moines, IA 50336
- August 8, Tuesday 7:30 p.m. Livermore GS meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave. (at "M"), Livermore. The program is a Book Sale & Swap.
- August 9, Wednesday 10 a.m. East Bay GS Meeting, LDS Library, Oakland.
- August 10, Thursday 7:30 p.m. CCCGS Meeting at City Council Chambers, Concord. Members will present "My Favorite Ancestor".
- August 12, Saturday 9-12, Nat'l Archives workshop: "Pre-1850 Migration Patterns, Eastern Seaboard to the Mississippi" Judy Svoboda (\$5) 876-9009
- August 19, Saturday 1:30 p.m. CGS Library, August is Illinois Month at CGS; come share successes and problems.
- August 22, Tuesday 9-1, Nat'l Archives workshop: "Research Using Court Records" Claude Hopkins (\$5) 876-9009

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OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand
837-1760

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837-9382

Membership: Carol Glover
820-7207

SRVGS Annual Dues: Individual
Membership \$12.50; Family \$15
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Dorothy Stanton
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866-9610

The newsletter is published each
month except August & December

[MULLEN] life story, keep it current by adding to it periodically. Read biographies to see how others did it (see p. 10). Use a tape recorder, if you don't want to write. Most important: GET STARTED!

POST SCRIPT

As Ben Franklin wisely said:

If we would not be forgotten,
As soon as we are dead and rotten,
We must do something worth writing
Or write something worth reading.

POST POST SCRIPT

Our thanks to VIRGINIA MEADOWCROFT for taking over the Hospitality chores at the June meeting.

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305

Nichols CA 94596

Editor: Dorothy Stanton

Meetings: 10 a.m.

3rd Tuesday of month

(except August & December)

Danville Women's Club House

242 W. Linda Mesa Avenue

Volume V No. 2

Barbara O'Rand, President

July-August 1989

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: JULY 18, 1989, 10 A.M.

PROGRAM: RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA TRAIN DEPOTS

SPEAKER: IRMA DOTSON

SRVGS member, Irma Dotson, will be the July speaker. Although she will discuss restoration approaches taken by several nearby communities, her primary focus will be on Danville Depot -- preliminary steps, current status, and future plans.

A noted researcher, promoter and preserver of Contra Costa history, Irma is a charter member of SRVGS and the San Ramon Historical Society, a member of Danville Research Commission and Diablo Chapter of DAR. Currently, she is preparing a book for publication: The San Ramon Branch of Southern Pacific Railroad; A History of the San Ramon Branch from Avon to Radum

NO MEETING AND NO NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST

LAST MONTH

Ann Marie Mullen (escorted by her charming 4-yr.-old son, Christopher) instructed, inspired and delighted those who were able to attend the June meeting on the topic: "Writing Your Own Personal History." Using her excellent hand-out instruction booklet, she provided hands-on practice at putting down ideas ("brain-storming") to help get the actual writing process started. Her examples from her own history, written while in college, illustrated her points.

Some suggestions from her talk: divide your life into workable sections, e.g. 0-6 years, 6-12;

take one section and "brainstorm", jotting down memories of events, emotions, people--just enough to jog the memory. Do one section at a time, then go back and mark the turning points. Write about the turning points first, then fill in other events. "Show" instead of "Tell" the story, using dialogue, actions and feelings; be specific and create word pictures that use the senses -- "lifesavers" instead of "candy"; "jam of strawberries from our garden"; "daisies" instead of "flowers". After completing your
[cont. next page MULLEN]