

SAN RAMON VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER
P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94526

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. 3

Barbara O'Rand, President

September 1989

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 19, 1989

PROGRAM: "LET ME TELL YOU A STORY"

The September speaker will be DAVID VASQUEZ, owner of "Legacies", San Francisco. Using slides, he will illustrate how to make a chronologically arranged Legacy Tape. He combines three basic elements: video tape interviews with questions, answers and storytelling; old photographs and sundry memorabilia; narration and/or music.

Mr. Vasquez graduated from Chico State University with a master's degree in Audio-visual Education and has ten years of video production experience in commerce and education.

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At the September meeting, Martha Banner will have Anne Marie Mullin's booklet, "Writing Your Own History", for those who ordered them. The price is \$3.00.

JULY MEETING

At the last meeting, the speaker was our own Irma Dotson. She used slides to illustrate her interesting talk on the restoration of early train stations in California. She also gave us a progress report on the plans to restore the old Danville train depot as a home for the SRV Hist. Society's Museum -- and, (maybe?) a meeting room for SRVGS!

LOOKING AHEAD - NOVEMBER

Martha Banner, program chairperson, has scheduled for our Nov. meeting, "Share An Ancestor with Others" day. The first five persons contacting Martha (828-1824) who have an ancestor with an interesting life or place in history, will prepare a 3-5 min. presentation. Speakers should include any relevant picture, heirloom, etc. More details from Martha at the next meeting.

* MARK YOUR CALENDAR *

- Sept. 12, Tues. 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador GS meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave. (at "M"), Livermore. The speaker is Elizabeth Campbell, author and self-publisher of Castle-hopping in the UK.
- Sept. 13, Wed. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nat'l Archives Workshop: "Research Using Land Records", Daniel Nealand. Fee: \$5. Call San Bruno for reservations, (415) 876-9009.
- Sept. 13, Wed. 10 a.m. East Bay GS Meeting, Rm. 30, LDS Gen. Lib. Bldg., 4780 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. Speaker Jim Dennis, CG: "Same Name Ancestors". Call 547-5804 for more information.
- Sept. 14, Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. GS meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. Program: "Researching the Courthouse", speaker Christine Rose, C.G., FASG.
- Sept. 16, Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Family History Seminar, 555 Boyd Rd. P.H. [see details below].
- * Sept. 19, Tues. 10 a.m., SRVGS Meeting
- * Sept. 19, Tues. 1 p.m., ROOTS III Special Interest Group
- Sept. 21, Thurs. 1-3 p.m. Mt. Diablo GS meeting at Home Federal Sav. & Loan Meeting Room, 1938 Tice Valley Blvd., W.C.
- * Sept. 26, Tues. 8 a.m., SRVGS Library Trip to San Bruno Archives. Meet at Lucky's on Alcosta Blvd. in Dublin to carpool.
- * Sept. 27, Wed. 10 a.m. Publishing Special Interest Group.
- Sept. 27, Wed. Deadline for down payment for Gen. Research Tour to Salt Lake City (Oct. 19 - Nov. 5). Call Frances Becker 934-4962 or 837-8742.
- * Oct. 3, Tues. 10 a.m., SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. All members are welcome.
- * Oct. 10, Tues. 10 a.m. Irish Interest Group
- Oct. 10, Tues. 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador GS meeting. Speaker: Ed Pyle on migration trails. See Sept. 12 for address.
- * Oct. 17, Tues. 10 a.m. SRVGS Meeting. Topic: "Land Records", Jane Cassidy.
- Oct. 21, Sat. 9 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. Sacramento German GS presents a Seminar with Michael Palmer. College Center Bldg. Sacramento City College.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Barbara O'Rand 837-1760
 Vice-Pres.: Frances Lloyd 837-9382
 Membership: Carol Glover 820-7207
 Dues: Individual \$12.50; Family \$15

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 month except August & December

► BROWN BAGGERS' NEARLY-ALL-DAY
 FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR
 Saturday, Sept. 16 - 9AM until 4 PM

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 Pleasant Hill Wards 1, 2, & 3 Building
 555 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill

Classes will be held at 10, 11, 1 & 2.
 Registration & Displays start 9 a.m.

Some classes & teachers include:
 Beginning Genealogy - Helen Lenz (2x);
 Using the DAR & Other Patriotic Groups -
 Jacquie Mepians; Courts & Records In Them -
 David Owens; Preserving Documents & Photos -
 Julia Purdie; Newspapers as a Source - Fran
 Becker; Research in South - MaryAnn McKenna;
 Computer Use & Demo. AND LOTS MORE.
 Bring your lunch and they will add to it!



1989-90 LIBRARY TRIP SCHEDULE

Following is the tentative scheduling of library trips for the coming year. Departure time and place will be announced at the general meeting and in the newsletter just previous to each trip. Most trips have been scheduled for the 4th Tuesdays, one week after the general meeting. For questions, call Shirley Terry, 829-7787.

8:00	Tues	Sept 26	San Bruno Archives
9:00	Tues	Oct 24	San Jose Family History Center
8:00	Tues	Nov 28	Mayflower Soc & East Bay GS Library
		Dec	NO LIBRARY TRIP
9:00	Tues	Jan 22	Solano Co. GS Library, Vacaville
9:00	Tues	Feb 27	Sutro Library, San Francisco
8:00	Tues	Mar 27	Oakland Family History Center
8:00	Tues	Apr 24	Santa Clara GS & Public Library
8:00	Tues	May 22	CA State Library, Sacramento
9:30	Tues	June 26	Contra Costa Co. Library, Pleasant Hill

These trips are arranged to coordinate car-pooling of our members. This year our trips are combined with the Livermore-Amador Gen. Soc. since our Library Trip Coordinator, Shirley Terry, is their president and agreed to a second term for us on this basis.

The size of some libraries will require a sign-up sheet which will first be presented to SRVGS members the month previous to the trip. A reminder announcement will then be made at the meeting the week before the trip with the possibility of filling any vacant slots that haven't been taken by LAGS members.

The meeting place will depend on the direction of the library. If to the North and East, it will be behind Alpha Beta on Diablo Road. If to the South and/or West, it will be south of Lucky's in Dublin at Alcosta and San Ramon Valley Roads. (Shirley has obtained permission for this from Lucky's manager, Don McBride.) Please leave spaces near stores for customers. If these meeting places are not convenient for you, plan to meet several others at a spot of your choice or drive direct and meet the group at the library. Shirley would appreciate a call if this is your plan so she knows about how many people to expect for the trip.

PLEASE BE PROMPT. TAKE A WATCH. Riders should plan their time so that they are NOT on microfilm readers or copying machines at departure time. The driver is doing others a favor and should not have to spend research time rounding up passengers.

BRING A LUNCH. Most libraries are not near restaurants and most researchers don't want to waste valuable time. TAKE A PENCIL. Many libraries do not allow pens. Take a quarter to San Bruno.

★ SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SCHEDULES FOR 1989-1990 ★

<u>Group</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>
ROOTS III	1st and 3rd Tues., 1:00	To be announced	Shirley Terry 829-77877
IRISH	2nd Tuesdays, 10 a.m.	333 Goshen Ct. SR	Carol Glover 829-7207
SOUTHERN	2nd Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m.	To be announced	Frances Lloyd 837-9382
GERMAN	To be decided at General Meeting in Sept.		Kate Prunte 838-9873
NEW ENGLAND	To be resumed in January.		Mary Ella Parrott 837-9677
BRITISH	To be resumed in January.		Jean Blackmur 837-2952
PUBLISHING	To be decided at first meeting		Marilyn Fullam 828-1873

Contact Patty Erickson, 229-0889, if you are interested in starting another special interest group.

★ PUBLISHING

The first Publishing Group meeting will be Wednesday, September 27 at 10 a.m. at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danville. Charles Graves will share his experiences in getting his book into print. Plans for the 1989-90 year will be discussed. There will be a question and answer session and members will discuss their publishing projects. All are welcome.

★ IRISH RESEARCH

The next meeting of the Irish Interest group will be Tuesday, October 10, 10 a.m., at the home of Carol Glover, 333 Goshen Ct., San Ramon. Martha Banner, who recently returned from Ireland, will share her experiences and tell about doing research in Dublin.

★ SOUTHERN STATES

The first meeting will be October 10, 1 p.m., at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danville. Bring source materials, books, etc. to share. The group will decide on the format of future meetings.

★ GERMAN

Meeting day and time will be decided at the September General Meeting. Kate Prunte also will be offering a class called "German for Genealogists." (\$5 nominal fee). Keep in mind that Kate is the new "German" volunteer on Fridays at the Oakland Family History Library. She will be able to help those who are researching German families and have films which need to be translated from German.

★ ROOTS III

Bob Heacox will continue to share his expertise in the use of computers and the ROOTS III genealogical program with the group. If you own ROOTS II or III -- or plan to get started on it soon -- come to the first meeting Sept. 19, 1 p.m., at the home of Shirley Terry, 301 Almond Ct., San Ramon. Bob will help solve problems and answer questions. Future meeting places will be decided at the meeting.

★ FAMILY TIES, ANYONE???

This summer, Delores Huckabone obtained the computer genealogy program called "Family Ties". Hers runs on MS-DOS hard disk. She would like to know of anyone in the society who may also have this program and would like to compare notes. Give her a call at 830-8641.

★★★ *Reviews*

- ★ **HOW TO FIND YOUR FAMILY ROOTS** by Timothy Field Beard, McGraw-Hill, c1977. From San Ramon Valley Library, call letters: R929.1 Bear. This is in the Reference Section and cannot be checked out.

When the author wrote this book, he was First Assistant Librarian of the History and Genealogy Dept. at the New York Public Library. It is not a "beginner's book" as the title seems to imply, although a beginner would certainly find it helpful. Rather, it is correctly classified as a complete reference book for the genealogist.

The author draws from his many years of helping library patrons in their genealogical research. He lists genealogical sources by state, which includes addresses of genealogy & historical societies, libraries and names of books and publishers. I found the address of one historical society in New York State that I didn't know existed and hadn't found reference to in any other readings. It proved to be the best contact I have made in that area in the past 3 years of research. The author includes a chapter on other countries, listing addresses of genealogists, book dealers and publishers with a particularly good section on Canadian resources. He tells of Jewish research and Native American research. There is a section on adoptees in search of their natural parents which includes the following address of the Adoptees Liberation Movement Association: ALMA, P.O. Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, New York, NY 10033.

Other information in this book includes tips on:

- writing to relatives, oral interviews and a biographical worksheet.
- what to do when you can't photocopy an old book or newspaper
- old photos, quilts, embroidery and other heirlooms
- how to find old cemeteries and tips on headstone rubbings
- whole chapter on heraldry.

As you can see, this book has something for everyone. I recommend it highly to all. [Review by Delores Huckabone]

★ A BARGAIN IN US RESEARCH HELP!!

If you're familiar with the Research Papers published by the LDS Church on research in various countries, [e.g. Ireland, Denmark, Germany, etc.] you'll be pleased to hear about a similar series of outlines by the Salt Lake Family History Library on research in the United States. The new series starts with a 52-page booklet on federal and nationwide sources, including census, immigration, land, military and other records. It describes the contents, uses and availability of major records and suggests research strategies.

Separate booklets on each of the states vary in length. They cover

the availability, including addresses, of major record sources (archives, libraries, churches, manuscript collections). In addition, there is a brief summary of important events in that state's history which affected political boundaries, record keeping and family movements.

At present, outlines of all states are available (except New York and New Jersey) at the Oakland Family History Center. The United States Research Outline is \$2.50 and each state outline is \$1.00. If you need all of them, the whole set is available for under \$15. A real BARGAIN!

[The Editor]

Hear any good stories at your family reunion?

FAMILY STORIES

TELLING FAMILY STORIES GIVES FAMILIES SOMETHING TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT . . . TEACHES FAMILY VALUES AND INSTRUCTS FAMILY MEMBERS ABOUT HOW THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BEHAVE.

So begins the report of an interview with Dr. Elizabeth Stone, Fordham University associate professor of English and Media Studies. She is the author of a book entitled Black Sheep and Kissing Cousins: How Our Family Stories Shape Us. The article [in Bottom Line/Personal, March 30, 1989] points out that analyzing your own family stories can be a surprising and revealing experience, providing valuable insight into your family and yourself. Following are excerpts from the interview:

A family story doesn't have to be a long drawn-out narrative. It can be a one-liner as well as a complicated tale. The statement, "Your grandfather never could hold his liquor", qualifies as a family story because it serves as a lesson to the rest of the family.

The main purpose of the family story is to define the family in a way that makes its members feel unique and better than other families.

You can find your own family story by asking yourself what it means to be a Smith, Jones, Green or whatever it is you are. You may come up with something like "All Greens are smart" or "All Greens know how to make money." You will probably realize that there's a particular Green who represents that special trait and that there's a story about him/her to prove the point.

Family stories also are a source of instruction about ways to be. A lot of traits attributed to the family are ones that the family values and is trying to instill in individual family members. The statement "All Greens are smart" expresses not just the family's self-image, but expectations of its members."

Family stories are one of the ways the family becomes the agent of our culture and does its sexual stereotyping. Girls are often told



how good they were while boys are told how scrappy they were—in very admiring tones.

Another function of family stories is that they offer coping strategies and sources of self-esteem in the form of a famous or wonderful ancestor. Similar is the lost-fortune story...which compensates for lack of wealth by saying that there used to be money, but it was lost in the Great Depression or the Blizzard of '88, or some other event beyond the family's control.

TYPICAL FAMILY STORIES

"Black Sheep" - Most families have such a story but the point varies.

"Wild Streak" - Some families brag about Indian or Gypsy blood or an outlaw ancestor who adds a romantic tie to their past.

"Patron Saint" an ancestor who serves as a role model.

"Great Escape" Tales of valor and obstacles overcome -as in the tales of the hardships a family endured to immigrate to the US.

To gain insight from your family stories, ask yourself: What stories does your family tell about you or a particular ancestor. Do they define the person in attractive or unattractive ways. Is the person really like that? How does your family see itself?

[Contributed by Carol Glover. Dr. Stone's book is from Time Books, 201 E. 50 St., New York 10022. \$17.95]



BOARD NOTES

The SRVGS Board wishes to express the sympathy of the Society to Charter Member JO ADAMS on the death of her husband this past summer.

President BARBARA O'RAND welcomed JANE STEINER as our new recording secretary. Thank you, Jane, for taking on the job. Thanks also to PAT MONTEATH & ARLENE GRIMES for taking charge of Hospitality at the July meeting.

First Vice-President FRANCES LLOYD volunteered to be the representative of our group with the newly-formed board of FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES at San Bruno.

Four new tapes have been purchased with proceeds from "donations" to the JOHN KOPCIE MEMORIAL TAPE COLLECTION. They will be reviewed in the next newsletter, catalogued by Tape Librarian BOB HEACOX, and be available for use by members soon. Tape titles are:

"Finding and Using Catholic Records in US & CN" - Joy Reisinger

"Solving Problems Using Records of Collateral Relatives" - Marsha Hoffman

"The Battle of the Burnt Court-House" Elizabeth Shown Mills

"Is This the Same Man - Or a Different One With the Same Name?" Helen Leary.

• FLEISCHMAN FIELD RESEARCH FUND-RAISER

Members who signed up as volunteers from our group to test products for market research will need to fill out a form to be mailed to the Fleischman Field Research offices. ARLENE GRIMES (372-6366) has extra forms. Remember, our group collects the \$5 for each member only when you are called and participate in a product test. Testing groups are held in Walnut Creek or in S.F. (near Montgomery St., Bart Exit). You will receive \$30 - \$75 for participating in each test group.. If you would like to participate, contact Arlene.

• NATIONAL ARCHIVES, SAN BRUNO
NEEDS SATURDAY VOLUNTEERS

Last year, the National Archives at San Bruno began a schedule of being open for genealogists only on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month between Labor Day and Memorial Day. The Archives cannot renew that schedule this Fall without the help of three or four volunteers each Saturday. Call (415) 876-9009 if

you can give one-half or more days per month, on a regular basis.

Detailed knowledge of their holdings is NOT necessary. They will be glad to brief you on the essentials. You can do your own work during lulls. And it's a good way to learn more about the holdings of the Archives. [From Friends of the Archives by way of Solano Co. GS]

• FAMILY PHOTO ALBUMS

Beware of cheap photo albums when you buy one to hold your treasured family photos. They can cause damage to the pictures. One of the worst is the kind with "magnetic" pages. The sticky adhesive can cause tearing, staining or fading when photos are removed.

The plastic covering can be harmful if it contains polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which emits a gas that can cause the colors in photos to fade. The best plastics are polyester (Mylar), polyethylene, polypropylene, triacetate and Tyvek.

Old-fashioned black backing paper used for pages can give off oxidant gases that attack photo images and can cause the pages to disintegrate over the years.

[cont'd on back page]

[PHOTO ALBUMS cont'd]

Photography professionals say the best way to store photos is in a scrapbook. Buy one with smooth white paper, use glue labeled "For mounting photos," and use safe plastic sheeting or "sleeves."

For storing photos in a box, use a metal one, or an archival-quality acid-free container called a "conservation box." The pictures should be kept in acid-free paper envelopes or separated by acid-free paper sheets. Store photos in a place that's dry, cool (65 to 70 degrees) and away from continuous, direct light.

One catalog source of archival supplies is Light Impressions, 439 Monroe, Rochester, NY 14607. [from Janet Trebowski's column in SRV Times, 6-18-89]

For another source of archival supplies for photos, etc. write for the free catalog from Genealogy Unlimited Inc., 789 South Buffalo Grove Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

* ERA OF "BAD PAPER"

Since the 1850's, most paper in general use is the cheap, acidic paper rather than the more expensive 100% rag papers. Genealogists who want to learn more about preserving their work, as well as their precious documents will find help in a new book from Heritage Quest's: Paper Preservation: Conservation Techniques & Methodology, by Dewayne J. Lener. (To purchase a copy, contact Frances Lloyd] Mr. Lener is the founder of the Preservation Emporium of Dallas, TX.

* NY RESEARCH HELPS

NEW YORK COUNTIES: Revised & updated county guides by Loren V. Fay are being issued. They contain maps with township boundaries & dates, history, archives, church organizations, addresses, vital records, etc. Send a SASE to New York Secrets, Box 2167, Albany, NY 12220 to learn which counties have been completed. The Albany County book (10 pgs.) is available for \$2.00.

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