

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. 4

Barbara O'Rand, President

October 1989

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 1989

PROGRAM: RESEARCHING LAND RECORDS

October's speaker, Dr. Jane Cassedy, is a psychologist and criminologist who worked for the Juvenile Court in San Francisco for over twenty-five years. After retiring, she began researching and compiling a family history book.

Dr. Cassedy will define such terms as warrants, surveys, patents, etc., and describe the two major ways of dividing and identifying tracts of land. Using actual documents, she will demonstrate what valuable family information they contain. She will also discuss some of the problems in using land records, such as "unenthusiastic" clerks and missing records.

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LAST MONTH

In September David Vasquez of LEGACIES in San Francisco presented a multi-media approach to preserving a personal or family story to pass along to future generations. He showed how slides, movies, video- and audio- tape interviews can be combined. Mr. Vasquez gave some practical suggestions for a "do-it-yourself" tape about someone in your family or even a self-interview. Wouldn't we love to have one about each of our ancestors!

If you would like LEGACIES to do your video-tape interview for you, contact David Vasquez at (415) 991-4667.

NEXT MONTH

Our Program Chairperson Martha Banner has set aside our November meeting as "SHARE AN ANCESTOR" month. If you would like to tell us about that special, fascinating person in your family tree, please call Martha at 828-1824 (after 5:00 p.m.). Deadline November 1.

* MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- October 12, Thurs. 7:30 p.m. Contra Costa Co. G.S. Meeting, City Council Chambers, Parkside Dr., Concord. Program: "English Research", by Joyce Buckland, editor of "The English Researcher".
- * October 12 Thurs. 10:30 a.m. SRVGS German Interest Group. At 1:00 p.m. the "German for Genealogists" class will meet. Both at Kate Pruenste's (838-9873). Bring brown-bag lunch if you plan to attend both.
- October 14 Sat. 1:00-3:30 p.m. "Family Diseases - Are you at Risk?" sponsored by the Santa Clara Co. Hist. & GS. At 1st Presb. Church, Miramonte at Cuesta, Mountain View.
- * October 17, Tues. 10 a.m. SRVGS Meeting.
- October 21 Sat., 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sacramento German Gen. Soc. seminar. \$15 for non-members. For info: (916)363-8053 or (916)392-0166.
- * October 24, Tues. 9 a.m. SRVGS Library Trip to San Jose Family History Center Library. Meet at south parking lot of Lucky's at Alcosta & San Ramon Rd., Dublin (just off #680).
- * October 24, Tues. 1-3:30 - Class by Bette Kot (see last page)
- * October 25, Wed. 10 a.m. SRVGS Publishing Special Interest Group at Frances Lloyd's, 210 Town & Country Dr., Danv. Next mtg., January 24.
- October 28 Sat. CGS BOOK FAIR at Ft. Mason Officers' Club. Program: "Los Californios". Fee \$14.75 includes lunch. For more info call CGS Library (415) 777-9936.
- November 4, Sat. 9:30 to 4:00 "A Day of New England Genealogy" [see below].
- * November 7 Tues. 10 a.m. SRVGS Board Meeting at Frances Lloyd's. All members are welcome.
- November 9, Thurs. 7:30 p.m. CCCGS [see Oct. 12 above] has rescheduled "Researching the Courthouse" by Christine Rose.
- November 14, Tues. 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Friends of the Archives Workshop: "Land Records" by Jane Cassedy. \$5 fee. (415) 876-9009. If you miss our meeting, here's a 2nd chance!
- November 14 Tues. 7:30 p.m. Livermore-Amador GS meeting at Cong. Beth Emek, 1886 College Ave. (at "M"), Livermore. Members will share "Methods of Locating Elusive Ancestors."

OFFICERS to Contact

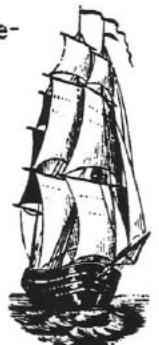
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NEWSLETTER

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A DAY OF NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGY

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society is presenting Dr. Ralph J. Crandall and Mr. William H. Schoeffler of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston in a day-long program on Saturday, Nov. 4, 1989. Topics: "What to look for in Deeds & Probate Records", "New Eng. Migration to the Midwest & Beyond", "New Eng. Research Sources", and "Migration Patterns Within New Eng." Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Ampex Corp. Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City. Maps and registration forms will be available at our October meeting. Pre-registration fee of \$20 (\$30 for husband & wife) is due by Nov. 1. Mail to San Mateo Co. GS, P.O. Box 5083, San Mateo, CA 94402. You may register at the door for \$22 (\$32).



THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It begins with the first settlers, who came to the Americas in search of a new life. They found a land of opportunity, but also a land of challenge. The early years were marked by conflict and struggle, as the settlers fought to establish a new society. Over time, the United States grew from a small colony into a powerful nation. It became a land of freedom and opportunity, where people could live and work as they saw fit. The history of the United States is a testament to the power of the human spirit and the ability of a people to overcome adversity.

The United States has a rich and diverse history. It is a land of many cultures, languages, and traditions. The people of the United States have made many contributions to the world, in the fields of science, art, and literature. The history of the United States is a story of progress and achievement. It is a story of a people who have overcome many challenges and who have built a great nation. The United States is a land of hope and possibility, where the future is bright and the possibilities are endless.

The United States is a land of freedom and opportunity. It is a land where people can live and work as they see fit. The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. It is a story of a people who have overcome many challenges and who have built a great nation. The United States is a land of hope and possibility, where the future is bright and the possibilities are endless.

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* AUDIO TAPE REVIEWS *

Four new tapes of talks given at the NGS 1989 Conference have been added to our SRVGS JOHN KOPCIE TAPE COLLECTION. They are reviewed below and will be available at the October meeting. Please return promptly.

* "Solving Problems Using Records of Collateral Relatives." by Marsha Hoffman Rising

Marsha Rising is a capable speaker and gave a well-organized talk on researching the brothers' and sisters' families of our ancestors.

Though most of us concentrate on surnames in our research, there are many relationships having blood and emotional ties that do not have the same surname. Many family relationships have both blood and emotional ties, not just a common name. They are people with a common history, a common tradition, and an emotional commitment to one another. Those bonds create records for the genealogist.

When studying collateral relatives, you don't start with the names, you study the community and become familiar with the institutions created by the community--the churches, the clubs, colleges, etc. You learn the type of records created by that community and check those records.

Become familiar with the kinship terms used in the period. Close relationships can evolve from adoptions, step-relatives or by marriage.

In a census record, be alert to any names listed with a family as a farm hand or a servant; they may be related.

To keep track of the various names being searched, she has developed a geographic locator, using a simple data base in her computer into which she puts the location, the time period, and the name. She can sort them by any one of the three categories. When making a trip she prints out all the names she has for the area where she is going. This can be done with file cards if you don't use a computer.

Her examples are well chosen, and she relates them with humor. During her talk, Marsha Rising gave seven valid reasons for researching collateral lines as well as tips for the researcher.

The study of collateral family lines can be time consuming, but it can be rewarding.

[Reviewed by Jane Steiner]

* "Finding and Using Catholic Church Records in the U. S. and Canada" by Joy Reisinger

This tape can apply to other religions as well as Catholic and gives some good tips on digging out those records. The first side of the tape is rather dull as Ms. Reisinger gives examples of how she found records. Don't give up as Side Two gets down to the actual "how to"s and "what to do"s. She gives hints on getting your hands on those records - from pleading to bribery - and the numerous places those records might be.

[Reviewed by Marilyn Fullam]

* "Is This the Same Man or a Different One With the Same Name?" by Helen F. M. Leary.

Is your problem that of too many individuals with the same name in the same place? Or are you trying to match a person in one area with someone with the same name in another place at an earlier time? You'll find help from the suggestions on this tape.

The main point the speaker makes is that you must focus, not on a name, but on a person who lived in a particular place at a particular time; a person whose life impinged on that time and place and left records. She makes suggestions about what identifiers to use to distinguish one person from another.

Most of the principles apply to any part of the country but they are particularly helpful in the SE states where vital records are non-existent. Her explanation of "Dower Rights" is especially good.

This tape is well worth listening to; the speaker makes her points graphically and with humor. She even inspired me to want to tackle my James Brown problem again!

[Reviewed by Dorothy Stanton]

* Reviews continued on the next page *

Audio Tape Reviews continued.

* "The Battle of the Burned Courthouse" by Elizabeth Shown Mills (90 mins.)

Who knows of a genealogist who doesn't have a "burned county courthouse" to contend with? Ms Mills gives us many reasons not to despair. First of all she stresses "Make sure that county courthouse really did burn". Secondly, "find the records that survived the fire". Then she proceeds with other sources and how to find them, such as: land records, law books, county histories, etc. She stresses the possibility of "recreated records" in the post-fire period and the records of surrounding counties. Check out this tape. You're going to get all fired up!

[Reviewed by Delores Huckabone]



* BOOK REVIEW *
by Delores Huckabone

Everyday Things in American Life - 1776 - 1876 by Langdon William Chauncy; Scribner, c1941. (reprint)
At San Ramon Library: 917.3 Lang

A delightful insight into how it was for our forebears during the first 100 years of the United States. Much of this book is about transportation of the era - boats, rivers & canals; horse & wagon, stage-coach, plank roads and turnpikes; early railroads and horse propelled railways. He even includes a chapter on covered bridges. He causes the reader to focus on life

as it was and brings to light the effect new modes of travel had on the lives of both rural and urban America, the resulting migrations and settling of new country.

In separate chapters he tells about newspapers and their growth and development. About clothing and how the materials available dictated styles. He describes home-life: the dignified parlor, furnishings of both upstairs and downstairs, the kitchen and even early cookbooks. There is a bit about farm life and early tools such as the scythe & cradle, and then a chapter on the retail trade; the peddler and the general store and its importance in the community. He ends the book with a 20 page chapter on the Centennial Celebration.

This book is liberally sprinkled with illustrations, has a great bibliography and index. It seems somewhat romantically written with lots of patriotism in-between. But the author has certainly done his research and this book is both informative and entertaining.



► FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS:

Calif. Gen. Soc. P.O. Box 77105, SF 94107
Frances Becker (Committee page) 934-4962

Starting on Sept. 18, the Monday SRV TIMES column by Joan Hamblen has been on genealogy. They've been an excellent "how to get started" series for beginners. Some of her readers joined us for the Nat'l Archives' trip.

And did you see the review of JIM DOTSON's book in the July-August issue of "Genealogical Helper"? Congratulations, Jim!

Planning Ahead? The NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY's Tenth Anniv. Conference: "A Capitol Conference", Arlington, VA will be held June 6-9, 1990.



LIBRARIES: INFORMATION & UPDATES

OAKLAND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The Oakland Family History Center will be closed

for Thanksgiving: Nov. 21 thru 25

for Christmas: Dec. 19 thru Jan. 2

News: The library is in the process of acquiring the 1900 census and has all of IA, IL, UT, and most of MO. They have "scattered" 1900 soundex films. Their next purchases will include NY, OH, PA, WI, MA and IA.

Consider giving the library a cash gift (tax deductible) from \$6.00 up. You may get to purchase what you want for \$100. [from Kate Prunette] Kate is the German language "helper" on Fridays 10-3 at the library.

On Tuesdays you can get help with Scandinavian languages from Esther Colwell.

Richard Boucher is now helping with French-Canadian research on the 1st & 3rd Wed. evenings 7-9:30. [From Jane Steiner]

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES

New acquisitions at the Nat'l Archives at San Bruno include census indexes for 1870 NC & 1790 DE. On order: 1870 VA & 1860 NH.

Civil War Films received: 117 rolls (the first 100 were donated by CCGS). Due now are 29 more. Ordered 7/31/89 are 21 more. Another order went in 8/31/89. It takes about 7 weeks to receive films.

The Archives will open its Research Room on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dates for October are Oct. 14 & 28. Volunteers are still needed. See Frances Lloyd, our rep to the Friends, or call Rose Mary Kennedy at the Archives 876-9009.

CGS LIBRARY

(See Directory address correction on p.24)
New hours: Wed., Thurs., Sat. 9-4.

HERITAGE COLLECTION

If you are thinking of making a donation to the Heritage Collection at the Central Library, Pleasant Hill, check first with David Hill, 376-5746.

HEADED FOR SALT LAKE?

The Salt Lake Family History Library Catalog (FHL) is now available for purchase by the general public. Individuals or organizations may purchase the entire catalog or portions of the locality and surname catalogs (on microfiche). Each fiche cost fifteen cents (1988 price). Order forms are available at the the Salt Lake FHL or can be obtained by writing to: Family History Dept., Administrative Services, 50 East North Temple, SLC, UT 84150.

You can also request order forms for the International Genealogical Index (IGI), which is also available for purchase by individuals or organizations. [from Utah Gen. Assn. Newsletter 1988].



[by Michael R. Provard from U.G.A. Newsletter, 1988]



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